

During a routine patrol on July 6th, Lance Corporal Engel's light armored vehicle struck a roadside bomb. After a valiant fight that lasted the better part of a month, Lance Corporal Engel passed away with his family at his side, just one day before his 22nd birthday.

Mark was an active young man. He attended West Middle School, and later attended Cherry Creek High School, where he played varsity football as a fullback. By all accounts, Mark was an avid athlete, an outdoorsman, a neighbor and a friend. Mark was a bright star that will be dearly missed by his family, his friends, his fellow Marines, and our community.

Mr. Speaker, my deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Lance Corporal Mark Engel. Mark served his country with distinction, making the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and liberty in defense of a grateful nation. All of us owe him a great debt of gratitude.

His dedication and bravery will not be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF GERTRUDE
MCDONALD ON THE OCCASION OF
HER 88TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Gertrude "Gert" McDonald, a lifelong New Yorker and dedicated public servant. On August 5, 2004, many of Mrs. McDonald's friends and colleagues will gather in her longtime neighborhood of Sunnyside, Queens to celebrate her 88th birthday. I am very pleased to offer my best wishes to Mrs. McDonald for a truly memorable and enjoyable evening.

Gertrude McDonald's decades of service to our community are truly worthy of celebration. Born in New York City, Gert moved to Sunnyside when she was seven years old. For more than sixty years, Gert has worked tirelessly to improve the well-being of her fellow New Yorkers. Gert has been a Democratic District Leader and a Downstate Representative of the Steering Committee of the Women's Political Caucus; additionally, she continues to serve as the President of the Queens of Angels Senior Center Club and the Corresponding Secretary of the 108th Precinct Community Council. Mrs. McDonald is a member of Community School Board 24, the United Forties Civic Association, the Borden Avenue Veterans Residence Advisory Board, the Queens Correctional Facility Advisory Board, the Mayor's Volunteer Task Force and, significantly, has been a loyal member of Queens Community Board Two for nearly thirty years.

Gert has also been a prominent figure in local politics for decades. At a time when women were usually relegated to a supporting role, Gert took the bold step of tossing her own hat into the ring. Her legacy as the first woman to run as a Democratic candidate for public office in Queens is truly inspirational. Although Gert did not prevail in her 1968 candidacy for the New York State Assembly, this bold act encouraged other women, including me, to run for public office.

With a quick wit and undeniable charm, Gert has a reputation for finding clever ways to

make her point. When the mayor proposed cutting garbage pickup in Queens to once a week, while leaving Manhattan pickup at three times per week, Gert suggested that Queens residents should take their garbage to work.

I continue to be in awe not only of Gert's contributions to the public good, but also of the level of energy and enthusiasm she brings to her many activities. Mrs. McDonald's life and accomplishments are a reflection of the strength and vitality of New York City itself.

I would like to join Gert McDonald's friends and family in marking this special occasion; I trust that she will be surrounded by the warmth of happy memories, good cheer and loving friendships.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Gertrude McDonald, a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and cherished friend of New York City. To Mrs. McDonald and her dedicated colleagues and friends at Queens Community Board Two, I offer my continuing admiration, respect and support.

HONORING MICHAEL PHELPS

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Phelps for his performance representing the United States in Athens at the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad.

Michael Phelps, who was born in Baltimore and now lives in Towson, is a lifelong resident of Maryland's Third Congressional District.

So, we Marylanders have been following Michael's career long before these Olympic games. At age seven, he joined the North Baltimore aquatic club, and at age sixteen, he won his first world title at the 2001 world championships in Japan. This was only the beginning of many recordsetting victories.

This August, joined by the rest of the world, we watched with extraordinary pride as Michael earned eight medals.

Through seventeen races in eight days, Michael did much more than beat his competitors—he exemplified true sportsmanship.

After winning his fourth individual gold medal, Michael stunned the athletic world by giving up his spot in the men's 400 meter medley relay on July to team mate Ian Crocker. The relay team won a gold medal, setting a world record. Michael's words say it best, and show why for him "world-class champion" is an understatement.

When asked about his decision, Phelps responded, "Ian is one of the best relay swimmers in U.S. history . . . when we want to put the four fastest guys up there, we look at everything, all the past swims, and we make the best decision . . . we came into this meet as a team and we're going to leave as a team."

Those words demonstrate why Michael Phelps is recognized as an outstanding role model, not just for athletes, but for all of us, no matter what our life's work.

As Michael leaves our state this fall to pursue his studies at the University of Michigan, we offer him our hearty congratulations and best wishes for the future.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me today in thanking Michael Phelps for representing our country with such honor and grace.

TRIBUTE TO BILL LAMBERT

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting my very good friend and an all around great guy, Bill Lambert, who for 40 years has served the United Teachers of Los Angeles as their Political Director. His colleagues will honor him at the UTLA Leadership Conference this summer.

Bill has worked tirelessly for decades on behalf of the teachers and the students of Los Angeles. He has counseled me on the intricacies of many difficult education issues, provided special insights on many bills I've sponsored, and hounded me mercilessly to work harder for his schools, find more funding for his projects and solve more problems for his teachers. He has demonstrated a special commitment to improving vocational education for students who are not college bound.

When Bill began his involvement in Teachers' organizations in 1957, teachers in Los Angeles had no family health insurance plans and no added bonuses for teaching over 30 years. He was a founder and key member of advocacy groups including the Elementary Teachers Association of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Teachers Association. An extremely successful negotiator, he has succeeded in winning both an excellent salary increase and improved benefits for Los Angeles' teachers.

Bill was born in the Bronx, but spent most of his life in Los Angeles. An alumnus of UCLA with a Masters Degree from Cal State Los Angeles, he began his long career in education in 1955 as a teacher at Montague Elementary School. He soon gained leadership positions among his fellow teachers and eventually became a legislative advocate on their behalf. He helped lobby along with United Teachers of Los Angeles for the revolutionary Rodda Act, which in 1975 became the first collective bargaining bill for teachers in California history.

Among his finest accomplishments is Bill's work for Children of the Dream, a program that puts children of diverse backgrounds—Israeli and Arab, Pakistani and Indian—together to help shatter stereotypes and create understanding. In 1997 he won the NEA Applegate Doros International Understanding Award.

Bill and his wonderful wife, Lenore, have four fine, successful children.

Please join me today in honoring my close friend, Bill Lambert, for his outstanding contributions to our community and for his steadfast commitment to the education of our children and to their teachers.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
VERONICA ZASADNI (RONNE)
FROMAN, REAR ADMIRAL, U.S.
NAVY, RETIRED

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Veronica Zasadni